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Abstract of the disclosure

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An apparatus matches the configuration of a first station of a local area network to the configuration of the second station of the local area network. The first station detects a protocol advertisement from the second station that indicates a protocol in which the second station is capable of operating. The first station compares the indicated protocol of the second station to a protocol in which the first station is capable of operating. The first station determines, when the result of the comparison is negative, which of the first station and the second station is a higher priority station. The first station advertises, to the second station, a protocol capability of the first station. The first station changes the advertised protocol capability of the first station when it is determined that the first station is the higher priority station. The first station waits for the advertised protocol capability of the second station to change when it is determined that the second station is the higher priority station.--

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